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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/994,850 Confirmation No.: 8454  
Inventor: : Kozo Akiyoshi et al.  
Filed: : November 28, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2621  
Examiner: : Helen Shibru  
Docket No. : 13831  
Customer No. : 000293

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

**AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

In response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this response.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this response.